

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-5, 8-14, 16-31, 34-38, 40 and 42-50, with claims 1, 12, 25-27 and 38 being independent. Claims 6, 7, 32, 33 and 51-56 have been cancelled. The independent claims have been amended to better define the present invention. Support for this amendment may be found, inter alia, in the substitute specification at paragraph [0091]. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-38, 40 and 42-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Nos. 5,726,529 (Dean), 5,614,781 (Spindt); or 5,083,058 (Nonomura). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the merits of rejection, Applicant would like to briefly review some of the key features and advantages of the presently claimed invention. The present invention, in pertinent part, is directed to a method for manufacturing a spacer or an electron beam apparatus. In this method, a liquid material is applied to a portion of the substrate that has a predetermined curvature radius or a portion that is pretreated so that there is no substantially acute angle in a section of the portion. The material is emitted by an ink-jet method, as a result of which the application of the film material can be limited to the desired area of the spacer. The film material is hardly applied in areas where film formation is not necessary or desired.

Dean, Spindt and Nonomura teach coating spacer walls with a conductive material by a variety of coating processes. These coating processes include sputtering, chemical vapor deposition, screen printing and evaporation. However, Applicant submits that none of the cited references disclose or suggest applying the film material according to

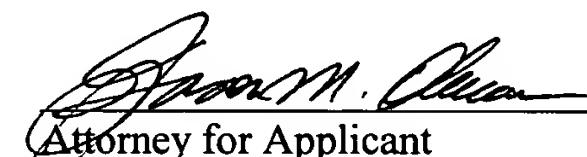
an ink-jet method, as presently claimed. Dean, Spindt and Nonomura fail to teach any of the advantages resulting from the ink-jet application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Dean, Spindt and Nonomura, whether considered alone or in any combination, do not disclose or suggest the combination of presently claimed elements and cannot render the presently claimed invention unpatentable.

Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn and the present case be passed to issue.

This Amendment After Final Rejection should be entered, because it places the case in allowable form. Alternatively, this Amendment places the case in better form for a possible appeal.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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